calisthenics class which he enjoyed; he only wisshes that "all the attendants were like Mr. Bollard."

However, he does not feel so positive about the place that he can forebear mentioning that he once considered himsself "unfortunate" to have been a patient there. If he now considers himself "fortunate," it is not simply to have been there but to have been there and "to see & know so much as I do now." It is perhaps unclear whether he feels himself more fortunate as a witness or as a survivor; he now appears to have been both.

Merton also takes pains to appear truthful and accurate. He seems rather precise, considering that the events he describes transpired 10 to 12 years. He emphasizes his efforts to give dates and names as "correctly" as he can, and to be "truthful in the details." He characterizes his condition at the time as "all right," except for his intense "despondency or melancholy." However, he insists, he was "quite sharp" in terms of knowing what went on around him. His being book-keeper at Messrs. Kendrie & Co, suggests that his present mental condition is sound and moreover that his character is good if not excellent. As he presents himself there is not now and never has been anything the matter with him that should cause anyone to doubt the truthfulness and accuracy of his statements.

Dr. Clark's reply to the Inspectors' enquiry concerning Merton's letter is dated May 20, 1889 and is preserved in the same file with it. Clark reports that he remembers Supervisor Kennedy as an Attendant of "good reputation" and a "kind man" who "would not be guilty of the cruelties Mr. Merton accuses him of." Kennedy has since retired from the Asylum service and gone into business.

Rutledge's later violent death while working as a guard at the Central Prison is used to imply that he was the sort of man who was more likely to have been the victim than the victimizer. McCreary, at the time of writing the Supervisor of Ward 16, is alleged to be "one of the kindest men in the Asylum." Moreover, the patients alleged to have been abused, John Manley and Allan Kennedy, were themselves never "abusive or violent," so were unlikely to have incited "the cruel attendant" or "the short-tempered one."

Defending the Attendants named by Merton, Clark acknowledges that abusive attendants exist. His implication that the sort of abuse described by